

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY BASKETBALL CLUB
DRIBBLING BALLS

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Things are reaching a climax for 1984 at a rapid rate. Intervarsity is almost upon us, women's finals, Thursday night finals, the list goes on and on and on. Just like Dribbling Balls. We'll be covering all these events, and even if nothing exciting happens we'll make it up. Yes, all the excitement of Carl Rodwell calling the basketball, all the intelligence of Billy J. Smith at the boxing and all the unbiased objectivity of Norman May at the swimming, Dribbling Balls will outdo them all. We cross now to the incredibly exciting synchronized rhythmic navel contemplation competition...

M.B.A. A GRADE (Mon. 16/7)

Uni 41 d. Ajax 36

Well, they said it couldn't be done, and still we won another game! This victory was all the more satisfying because we came from behind at half time. Surprise, surprise, we started the game well again, and led 15-12 about 4 minutes before half time. We were cruising through our weak side offence and scoring, but not looking too convincing. Suddenly we were trailing 15-22 at half time - mainly because of our weak screens and failure to set up our offence properly. We switched to man-to-man D in the second half and the result was never in any doubt. Everyone played tough defence, with Luke being outstanding at both ends and scoring 9 points. Oh yes, Gary played yet another great game. And what was the take home message from this game? (This is a typical opportunity for the Editor to say "Fued if I know".) (Hey, I resemble that comment - Ed.) A poorly run man-to-man offence with everyone trying to be constructive is better than none at all! And I almost forgot - Gary missed a foul shot. Best : Gary, Tony, Luke.

Gary 15, Tony 10, Luke 9.

V.W.B.A. DIV 2 (Wed. 25/7)

Uni 29 d. Werribee 26

After Schepini and Bridget got concussion in the first minute of this game we had more players running around holding their heads than we did during the warm up before the Portland grand final. We not only had to contend with Werribee, but we had the legendary "deaf ref" as well. He does not like us. We do not like him. He probably comes from Moe. A tight first half saw our man to man defence hold fairly well, although our blocking out and pass denial still requires more work. Our offence was spasmodic against their zone, and a little less consistent than that against their man to man. Nevertheless, we only trailed 11-12 at half time. In the second half we gradually got on top in offence mainly due to some good shooting from Spike around the foul line area and some pressure baskets from Bridget. We switched to zone defence midway through the half and worked our way to 6 points up. As the game entered the closing stages Werribee staged a come back and despite good defence from Carmel and persistent shot rejecting from Jean they got it back to 1 point with 30 seconds to go. At this stage the deaf ref was dominating the play and making his usual run of the mill unbelievable decisions and it looked dangerous for us. We froze the ball well for the rest of the game and when Spike was fouled with one second to go we had it made. She made both shots to give her 8 points for the half and we won by 3 points. Good to have another win here, especially against a team ahead of us on the ladder. We are one and a half games outside the four now, in sixth place.

Spike 10, Bridget 9.

C.Y.M.S. Championship (Sun. 29/7)

Jetz 100 d. Uni 56

Well sports fans, this game probably wasn't as bad as the scoreline indicates. It was worse. It was worse than worse. We started really well - we didn't

score in our first 10 trips down the court and Jetz did, every time. Trailing 21-0 some people thought we were in a little trouble. They were wrong. We were in more trouble than a cabinet minister with a plane load of Paddingtons. We eventually managed to score somehow, and even slowed down the rate at which we were dropping behind. Betty played well in offence and hit four baskets for the half, while J.C. scored 9 of his 12 points for the half from three pointers. We trailed 26-56 at half time, and looked set for a big loss. The second half was an instant replay of the first. Pendles tried hard, a few more bombs from J.C., multiple continuous scoring from the opposition, this game had it all. Some people thought we had a chance of winning this game. All things considered, we had about as much chance of winning as a member of the Kennedy family would have of surviving a trip to the San Diego MacDonalds.

J.C. 21 (incl. 5 three pointers), Betty 13, Pendles 6.

V.W.B.A. DIV 2 (Wed. 1/8)

Uni 53 d. St. Kilda 36

This was quite an impressive performance against the team that was two places ahead of us on the ladder before this game. The coach bowed to the threat of physical violence and started Jean and from here we never looked back (more than a couple of times). After the first couple of minutes we dominated a lot of the game, although periodic lapses in defence caused some worries. Our zone offence was led by Spike around the boards and Bridget and Bernie with their accurate long range shooting and they both had 6 points as we led 24-15 at half time. In the second half we turned on the power and ripped away to an 18 point lead, and in so doing we decided we had the game in the bag. Unfortunately we hadn't counted on our defence absenting itself for quite a few minutes and we let the opposition get back to 38-32 with about 5 minutes to play. From this point though our zone press suddenly and for no apparent reason began to work. Gillian and Jean dominated in the second row, or would have if Bernie and Bridget let the ball get that far, but they were having a picnic all of their own. We outscored St Kilda 15-4 in these five minutes to take fifth spot on the ladder with five rounds to go. Great games from the guards especially, team spirit high as usual.

Bridget 16, Bernie 14, Spike 7.

V.B.H.B.A. A GRADE MEN (Thu. 2/8)

Real Men 45 d. Varpas 38

Yes, we won again at last!! It's been a long time between drinks (more correctly, a long time between wins after many drinks). We not only had to cope with the normal on court game pressures, but also with a number of external pressures. For example, there are :

- the death threats to FF24 from an anonymous female power forward
- the bitter off court arguments between our guard Trevor Smith and Mattman. This has resulted in Trevor not playing for the last three weeks (Mattman told him that anyone who misses three Saturday morning trainings because he went home to the country to be near his mother's skirts shouldn't be playing basketball).

- the loneliness of Dave DeV feels since his University supervisor Phil Beart left for overseas studies

- Abba's health. He's been feeling Terryable lately (and vice-versa).

But back to the game. We played well. We all played solid defence. We all scored points. What more can you say? To all you fellow winners out there, isn't victory sweet!!

C.Y.M.S. Championship (Sun. 5/8)

Bisleri Lions 80 d. Uni 39

Do you realize that if you reverse the order of the digits in our score we would have won this game by 13 points. This is absolutely the only good thing to come out of this game. With finals approaching we are really firing now, this was our second 40 point plus loss in a row. Can we make it three in a row

and snatch fifth place from the jaws of the semi-finals? I'd say we were in with a chance. No I wouldn't. Positive thinking needed here. We will make the finals, we will win. We will win. We will win. We will win. We will tell fibs.
Chris Morrey 8.

V.W.B.A. DIV 2 (Wed. 8/8)

Uni 40 d. Melbourne 21

We started this game with all the speed and desperation of a pissed snail. Bad fouls in slack defence let Melbourne shoot foul shots and have the lead for the first five minutes. The addition of the zone press to our defence eventually got the team firing and we powered our way to the lead, Gillian's aggression in the second row was the major factor here and she earned a couple of great baskets from the hustle. Our 15-9 half time lead was quickly extended as the opposition crumbled under our backcourt pressure. Spike, Bridget and Bernie started to fire well in offence and that was then end of the ball game. We let them score a couple of baskets towards the end, and we missed a lot of shots right under the basket which stopped us from winning by 30 points. Still, we played well, and all results being equal, we should just have snatched fourth place on the ladder, and now face the tough job of holding it for the last four weeks of the season.

Bridget 11, Spike 8, Bernie 6.

V.B.H.B.A. C GRADE MEN (Thu. 9/8)

Uni 32 d. Finemore's 25

We were expecting a close game from Finemore's because of past experience. It was, but only because we played one of the worst games for the year. We started well and went to an early lead of about 12-4. Late in the half we took it easy, got the fumbles and went to sleep. Consequently they got a run on and scores were about even at half time. Quick baskets early in the second half saw us go to about a 10 point lead which we held until Finemore's rallied in the last few minutes, all to no avail. After the game Coach Cooper pointed out the number of turnovers, especially in the second half, was incredible. Our defence was good though. Foul shooting was abominable. Please note Mick, Peter and Dragon - About 14 points down the tube! Dragon relished a run on the wing in offence and played very well scoring 12. Peter (keep the ball close to the ground) Rehfish did well with 8. Steve did well at the point and Mick playing post. Carlo (hates to get there early) got 4. Mattman and Mark played forgettable games and scored 6 and 2 respectfully (unrespectable if you ask me). We will make the finals, but some of us need to lift and get some confidence back before the finals' crunch.

C.Y.M.S. Championship (Sun. 12/8)

Uni 78 d. C.Y.M.S. 65

You can always tell when it's going to be a good night here. We have a joke session in the centre circle before the opening jump ball. What IS three inches long and smells of curry? The scene for this game was set as we watched Bisleri get wiped out by Jetz beforehand... good for basketball. Anyway, back to our game. Suitably inspired we began fairly slowly and crept along to about 20 all, playing reasonably slack defence. At this stage though, Haggis, J.C. and Simon got the hot shooting hands and we powered away to a ten point lead, some of which we threw away to lead 41-36 at half time. In a close second half we maintained a comfortable lead most of the time. Chris and Paul were running well, Bowlesy and Betty did nicely on the boards, Simon and J.C. were consistent in offence and more than all that, we won, thus displacing C.Y.M.S. in the four. Highlight of the game was two three pointers by Simon in the last minute of play from a long way out. As Betty said - "We win when we play well." As Simon said - "We win when we play shithouse opposition." What is yellow and lives off dead beetles? Why do Italians talk with their hands?

Simon 26 (2 three pointers), J.C. 23 (4 three pointers), Haggis 12.

Intervarsity : The selection of the I.V. teams for this year is now complete. The lucky people selected are :

Men : Simon Brown-Greaves, John Campbell, Mark Carroll, Michael Clarke, Brian Connors, Jamie Keck (or Skippy, whichever comes first), Peter McGregor, Chris Morrey, Tony Penington and Rod Trevena. Manager is Trevor Smith. Coach is Henry Cooper.

Women : Lindy Barrett (or Spike if this person doesn't show up), Lissa Evans, Dom Horne, Leanne Lucas, Ellen Maxwell, Tracy Nero, Kylie O'Brien, Gillian Payne and Lisa Swartz. Manager is Bridget Grounds. Coach is John Campbell.

Dribbling Balls hopes to publish a list of Intervarsity game times so all you club members out there can go along and support the teams. If the times don't appear in Dribbling Balls then check the notice board outside the gym. Games are being played at Coburg Stadium and Merrilands High School during the week of August 27-31.

Intervarsity Send Off : Even though the I.V. teams aren't going anywhere, we're still going to have an official I.V. send off party for them. Everyone in the club is invited to attend and show your support for our representative teams, this is your chance to mingle with the stars, or get a free diagnosis from one of the six med students/doctors in the teams or just watch them all try to learn each other's names. The party is on Friday August 24 at an address to be announced (3 to 1 Henry's place, 5 to 1 Simon and Spike's, 8's Bowlesy's, Bridget's, rough chance Smithy's).

Annual Presentation Dinner : Yes sports fans, the all-singing, all-dancing, all-winning, all-dining, (e) none of the above Annual Presentation Dinner will be held on Saturday September 22 at Studley Receptions. Tickets are \$15 for students and \$22 for workers all inclusive. That's right, all beer, wine, music, food, pyramid racing, jock slinging, choral singing is free once you've bought your ticket. This is the highlight of the social year, the trophies are presented and we have the Haggis and Woody awards. What more could you want? See Davo, Judy, Abba or anyone else on the committee for more details. You just have to be there (attendance is a prerequisite for selection in any future Uni teams).

Non-competition : To finish off Dribbling Balls this edition, we have a brand new non-competition (thanks mainly to Mark Jenkin). There are no prizes and no entries will be accepted. The judges' decision is not final and correspondence will be entered into. All you have to do is... SPOT THE BALL...